

Message Text

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42

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9194

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05534

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO BERLIN

REF: BONN 03442

1. SHOULD THE SECRETARY VISIT BERLIN AT THE END OF MAY, HIS VISIT COULD COINCIDE WITH THE TRIAL OF WILLY BRANDT'S FORMER PERSONAL ASSISTANT AND ACCUSED EAST BERLIN SPY, GUENTER GUILLAUME. GUILLAUME IS SCHEDULED TO BE TRIED IN DUSSELDORF AT THE END OF MAY OR EARLY JUNE. THE GERMAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE TRIAL ARE NOT YET CLEAR ALTHOUGH IT COULD BE EXPECTED THAT THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION WILL ATTEMPT TO CAPITALIZE ON ANY REVELATIONS OF LAXITY IN SECURITY MATTERS ON THE PART OF FORMER CHANCELLOR BRANDT AND OTHER KEY SPD OFFICIALS IN BRANDT'S OFFICE. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, HOWEVER, WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR AND DID NOT COME UNDER CRITICISM IN EITHER THE MAJORITY (SPD/FDP) OR MINORITY (CDU/CSU) REPORTS OF THE SPECIAL BUNDESTAG INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

2. THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT THE EAST GERMANS MIGHT TAKE SOME UNTOWARD ACTION AFFECTING WEST BERLIN AS A REACTION TO WHAT IS BOUND TO BE EXTENSIVE AND CRITICAL WEST BERLIN MEDIA COVERAGE DURING THE TRIAL. SUCH AN ACTION, HOWEVER, WOULD REPRESENT A DECISION ON THE PART

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OF THE GDR TO RISK A SERIOUS SETBACK IN ITS RELATIONS

WITH THE FRG (E.G., BRINGING INTO QUESTION THE EXTENSION OF THE SWING TRADE ARRANGEMENT). HARASSMENT DIRECTED AGAINST WEST BERLIN WOULD BE ESPECIALLY RISKY FOR THE GDR DURING THE PERIOD OF THE TRIAL AS WEST GERMAN PUBLIC OPINION IS LIKELY TO BE MORE HOSTILE AND SUSPICIOUS OF THE EAST GERMANS THAN USUAL. IT IS ALSO DOUBTFUL THAT THE EAST GERMANS OR THE SOVIETS WOULD WANT TO TAKE SUCH AN ACTION DURING A VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO BERLIN BECAUSE OF ITS POTENTIAL NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THEIR MORE IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES (E.G., DETENTE, IMPROVED TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE US). IN SUM, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THE GUILLAUME TRIAL SHOULD PROVIDE ANY SPECIAL PROBLEMS OR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BERLIN.

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